

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 053284

64

ORIGIN PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 GAC-01 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10

OST-04 RSC-01 SCI-06 MC-02 NSF-04 PRS-01 NEA-10 PA-03

USIA-12 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 INRE-00 /151 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ AE: TURRENTINE/ DS

3/22/73 EXT 21835

APPROVED BY PM/ AE: HGHANDYSIDE

L/ UNA- MR. NELSON(SUBS)

IO/ UNP- MR. BLACK(DRAFT)

INR/ RSG- MR. FINCH(SUBS)

EUR- MR. SPRINGSTEEN

EUR/ RPM- MR. STREATOR

----- 127115

P R 222305 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

ALL NATO CAPITALS

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053284

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TSPA, MILI, UN, CA, FR, NATO

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE: REGISTRATION OF SPACE OBJECTS

REF: A. STATE 52029 B. STATE 50024

1. USG INTENDS TO TABLE REVISED DRAFT SPACE OBJECT REGISTRATION CONVENTION AT UPCOMING SESSION OF UN OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC) WHICH WILL MEET MARCH 26- APRIL 20 IN NEW YORK. CANADIAN- FRENCH DRAFT CURRENTLY BEFORE LSC CONTAINS REPORTING PROVISIONS WHICH WOULD CREATE SERIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 053284

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AND JEOPARDIZE US MILITARY SPACE ACTIVITIES OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS

WITH CANADIANS HAVE PRODUCED SATISFACTORY ADJUSTMENT ON SOME POINTS, BUT PROVISIONS UNACCEPTABLE TO USG REMAIN IN CANADIAN- FRENCH DRAFT AND DO NOT APPEAR AMENABLE TO DELETION. GIVEN THE HIGHLY TECHNICAL AND CLASSIFIED NATURE OF MOST OF OUR OBJECTIONS, IT IS DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR USG TO EXPLAIN FULLY RATIONALE OF OUR POSITION IN OPEN, INTERNATIONAL FORUM SUCH AS LSC.

2. PART OF PROBLEM HAS BEEN THAT SPACE REGISTRATION CONVENTION HAS BEEN HANDLED BY VARIOUS LSC MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AS UN/ LEGAL ISSUE WITH LITTLE OR NO INVOLVEMENT OF MILITARY/ INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS. SINCE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF NATO AND THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE BENEFIT FROM US MILITARY SPACE ACTIVITIES, EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO VIEW REGISTRATION IN

NARROW LEGAL FRAMEWORK RATHER THAN BROADER NATIONAL INTEREST CONTEXT SHOULD BE OF CONCERN TO OTHER NATO MEMBERS AS WELL AS US. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO ALERT MEMBERS OF NATO THAT THE VITAL MILITARY SPACE INTERESTS WHICH WE SHARE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY BY THEM IN ARRIVING AT THEIR POSITIONS ON SPACE REGISTRATION EFFORT, TO INVOLVE POLITICAL- MILITARY/ INTELLIGENCE SECTORS OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE MEMBERS OF LSC IN REGISTRATION ISSUE, AND TO GENERATE SUPPORT BY NATO ALLIES IN AND OUTSIDE LSC FOR APPROACH TO REGISTRATION CONVENTION REPRESENTED BY US DRAFT. (FOR EXAMPLE, NORWAY AND DENMARK, WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF LSC, MIGHT MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO SWEDEN, WHO IS LSC MEMBER. NATO MEMBERS WHICH ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF LSC INCLUDE BELGIUM, CANADA, FRANCE, ITALY, UK, AND US.)

3. FOR USNATO. UPON RECEIPT OF CONFIRMATION THAT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS CALLED FOR IN PARA 5, BELOW, HAVE TAKEN PLACE, MISSION IS REQUESTED TO CIRCULATE TO SYG AND OTHER DELS STATEMENT PROVIDED PARA 4 BELOW TOGETHER WITH TEXT OF US DRAFT CONTAINED REF A. IN ADDITION, IN CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER DELS, AND IN SPC, MISSION MAY DRAW ON TEXT OF STATEMENT AND ON REFS A AND B AS APPROPRIATE IN FOLLOW- UP DISCUSSIONS.

4. QUOTE: (CONFIDENTIAL) US STATEMENT ON SPACE REGISTRATION
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 053284

TRATION CONVENTION. SPACE REGISTRATION IS A CARRYOVER PRIORITY AGENDA ITEM FOR THE 1973 SESSION OF THE UN OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC) WHICH WILL MEET IN NEW YORK MARCH 26- APRIL 20. HAVING INTENSIVELY STUDIED THE REGISTRATION ISSUE, THE USG HAS DETERMINED THAT IT CANNOT SUPPORT A REGISTRATION CONVENTION ALONG THE LINES OF THE CANADIAN- FRENCH DRAFT WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEFORE THE LSC. BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN THE MODIFICATION OF SOME OBJECTIONABLE PROVISIONS; HOWEVER, OTHER PROVI-

SIONS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE USG REMAIN IN THE CANADIAN-FRENCH DRAFT AND DO NOT APPEAR AMENABLE TO DELETION.

IN GENERAL, THE PROVISIONS IN THE CANADIAN-FRENCH DRAFT WHICH THE USG FINDS OBJECTIONABLE WOULD REQUIRE THE TYPE OF DETAILED INFORMATION ON SPACE LAUNCHES WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY DISADVANTAGE OR JEOPARDIZE CERTAIN US MILITARY SPACE ACTIVITIES. IN THIS REGARD, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES AND THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE BENEFIT FROM MILITARY SPACE ACTIVITIES PERMITTED UNDER INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW AND GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. ALSO, THE USG BELIEVES THAT IT IS NEITHER DESIRABLE NOR TECHNICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO MARK SPACE OBJECTS AS PROPOSED IN THE CANADIAN-FRENCH DRAFT.

CONFIDENTIAL

THUS, THE USG HAS DECIDED TO INTRODUCE A REVISED DRAFT REGISTRATION CONVENTION WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT MAKE MANDATORY THE SPACE LAUNCH REPORTING TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL THAT THE US, USSR, AND OTHERS HAVE DONE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS FOR THE PAST DECADE PURSUANT TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1721 (XVI) OF DECEMBER 20, 1961. THE US DRAFT IS RESPONSIVE TO THE UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERNS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WITH RESPECT TO IDENTIFICATION OF SPACE OBJECTS FOR LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION PURPOSES. THE US DRAFT ALSO PROVIDES A MECHANISM FOR ESTABLISHING A "LEGAL LINK" BETWEEN SPACE OBJECTS AND THE LAUNCHING STATES. HOWEVER, THE USG IS NOT PREPARED TO ALLOW A REGISTRATION CONVENTION TO BECOME A DEVICE FOR BROADER INTERNATIONAL REGULATION OF OUTER SPACE OPERATIONS. THE US DRAFT REPRESENTS THE ONLY BASIS UPON WHICH THE USG WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN A REGISTRATION CONVENTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 053284

THE US DRAFT REGISTRATION CONVENTION BORROWS HEAVILY FROM THE CANADIAN-FRENCH DRAFT. THE USG HAS NO DESIRE TO TABLE OR IDENTIFY ITS DRAFT AS A UNILATERAL INITIATIVE. INDEED THE USG SOLICITS THE COSPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES FOR THE REVISED DRAFT REGISTRATION CONVENTION THAT WILL BE TABLED AT THE OPENING OF THE LSC. END QUOTE

5. FOR PARIS AND OTTAWA: YOU SHOULD CONVEY TO APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OUR POSITION, INDICATING THAT WE PLAN TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN NATO DISCUSSIONS, AND SOLICIT SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION.

6. FOR OTHER NATO CAPITALS: UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE PARTICULAR OBJECTION, YOU SHOULD REINFORCE USNATO EFFORT BY APPROACHING APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DEALING

WITH NATO AFFAIRS, IN ADDITION TO NORMAL CONTACTS ON UN
MATTERS. ROGERS

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 07 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE053284
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PM/ AE: TURRENTINE/ DS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730348/abqceief.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 52029 B. STATE 50024
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971222
Subject: OUTER SPACE: REGISTRATION OF SPACE OBJECTS
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TSPA, CA, FR, UN, NATO
To: NATO
ALL NATO CAPITALS INFO USUN N Y
CANBERRA
MOSCOW
TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

